

00009-22 - Key Points on Impacts to Critical Infrastructure, Demonstrations Across Canada - 06 Feb 2022

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Colleagues,

New information in bold as of 17:00 EST, 06 Feb

Overview

- * Effective 15 Jan, COVID-19 vaccination became mandatory for all truckers entering Canada from the US to avoid a two-week quarantine and a negative COVID-19 test before arrival.
- * Similarly, beginning on 22 Jan, non-US essential workers who are crossing land borders must be fully vaccinated.

Key Points: (Details on Demonstrations in affected cities/regions)

Ottawa, ON:

- On the afternoon of 06 Feb, the City of Ottawa declared a State of Local Emergency due to the ongoing demonstration.
- Estimated 50 people on Parliament Hill and 800-1000 people in the surrounding area.
- * Authorities continue to engage with convoy organizers to clear emergency lanes. Limited progress has been made in the downtown core.
 - o Impasse in Ottawa as protesters settle in, police are strained and politicians search for solutions. [Link](#)
 - o City 'outnumbered,' says mayor. [Link](#)
 - o Downtown Ottawa 'out of control' with convoy protesters 'calling the shots': mayor. [Link](#)

Toronto, ON:

- No reports of demonstrations, however, road closures remain in effect for key areas in the downtown core.
 - o Toronto police to maintain road closures and heavy presence downtown day after large protest. [Link](#)
 - o Man arrested after feces thrown during anti-mandate protest in Toronto. [Link](#)

Sarnia, ON:

- Demonstrations have closed the Blue Water Bridge (Canada-US border crossing).

- Alternative routes have been established and latest reports indicate a reduction of vehicles involved in the demonstration.
 - Police close westbound Hwy. 402 as anti-restrictions convoy hits Sarnia. [Link](#)

Quebec City, QC:

- * Demonstrations are occurring in the vicinity of the QC National Assembly buildings.
- * Reports indicate 20 transport trucks and several hundred demonstrators.
 - * Police issue warnings to protesting truck drivers in Quebec City, parking tolerance ending. [Link](#)
 - A few hundred protesters honk their horns in Quebec City. [Link](#) (French Only)

Coutts (Port of Entry) AB:

- * Two lanes of traffic remain open on the highway in the vicinity of Coutts, allowing access to the US border.
 - Two lanes of traffic are open on the highway in the vicinity of Coutts, allowing access to the US border.
 - Here for the long-haul': No end in sight to Coutts blockade on Day 7. [Link](#)

Winnipeg, MB:

- No new reports of demonstrations.
 - Man charged in hit and run during Freedom Convoy protest, injuring four. [Link](#)
 - Police probe hit-and-run at Winnipeg protest against pandemic restrictions. [Link](#)

Regina, SK:

- Reports indicates protesters are preparing to occupy a street close to the Legislative building for a prolonged period.
 - Anti-mandate protesters vow to stay on Albert Street as police ticket vehicles. [Link](#)

Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, AB:

- No new reports of demonstrations.
 - Convoy snarls streets in Edmonton. [Link](#)
 - Protests against COVID-19 health measures continue in Alberta cities. [Link](#)

Vancouver, Victoria, BC:

- No new reports of demonstrations.
 - Convoy against COVID-19 restrictions returns to BC legislature for 2nd weekend. [Link](#)

Preparedness and Response efforts

Ottawa, ON :

- * The GOC will host Significant Event Information Sharing Protocol (SEISP) teleconferences with partners at TBS and PCO on an ad hoc basis for the remainder of the event.
- * OPS has increased uniformed presence over the weekend.
 - Ottawa police hire elite crisis-management firm to handle protest messaging. [Link](#)
- * On 29 Jan, a NOTAM was issued for airspace restrictions over Parliament Hill and has been extended until 07 Feb.
- * Police resources continue to issue tickets.
- * OPS has announced on social media that "Anyone attempting to bring material supports (gas, etc.) to the demonstrators could be subject to arrest. Enforcement is underway."
- * OPS and OPP resources continue to address areas of tension with truckers/demonstrators and maintaining public safety is the number one priority.

- * OPS additionally reports the following:
 - * Continue to avoid nonessential travel to the downtown core.
- * For information on [planned traffic routes, road closures and location of other demonstrations nationally](#).
- * For updates on the [City of Ottawa road closures and traffic](#) or via social media [@Ottawa_Traffic](#) and [@Ottawa_Circule](#).

Other Jurisdictions:

- Quebec City, QC: Tow trucks ready if convoy poses problems, Legault says. [Link](#)
- * On 03 Feb, a NOTAM was issued for airspace restrictions over Queen's Park in Toronto. Restrictions are in effect until 09 Feb.
- * On 03 Feb, a NOTAM was issued for airspace restrictions over Quebec City, QC. Restrictions are in effect until 09 Feb.
- * NOTAMs are in effect over Milk River, AB in addition to Coutts, AB until 09 Feb.

Overall Assessment: (derived from information available on open sources):

- * The majority of the events have been peaceful.
- * Since most government employees are working remotely, the disruption to government activities is so far minor.
- There is currently no known end time for the demonstrations.

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